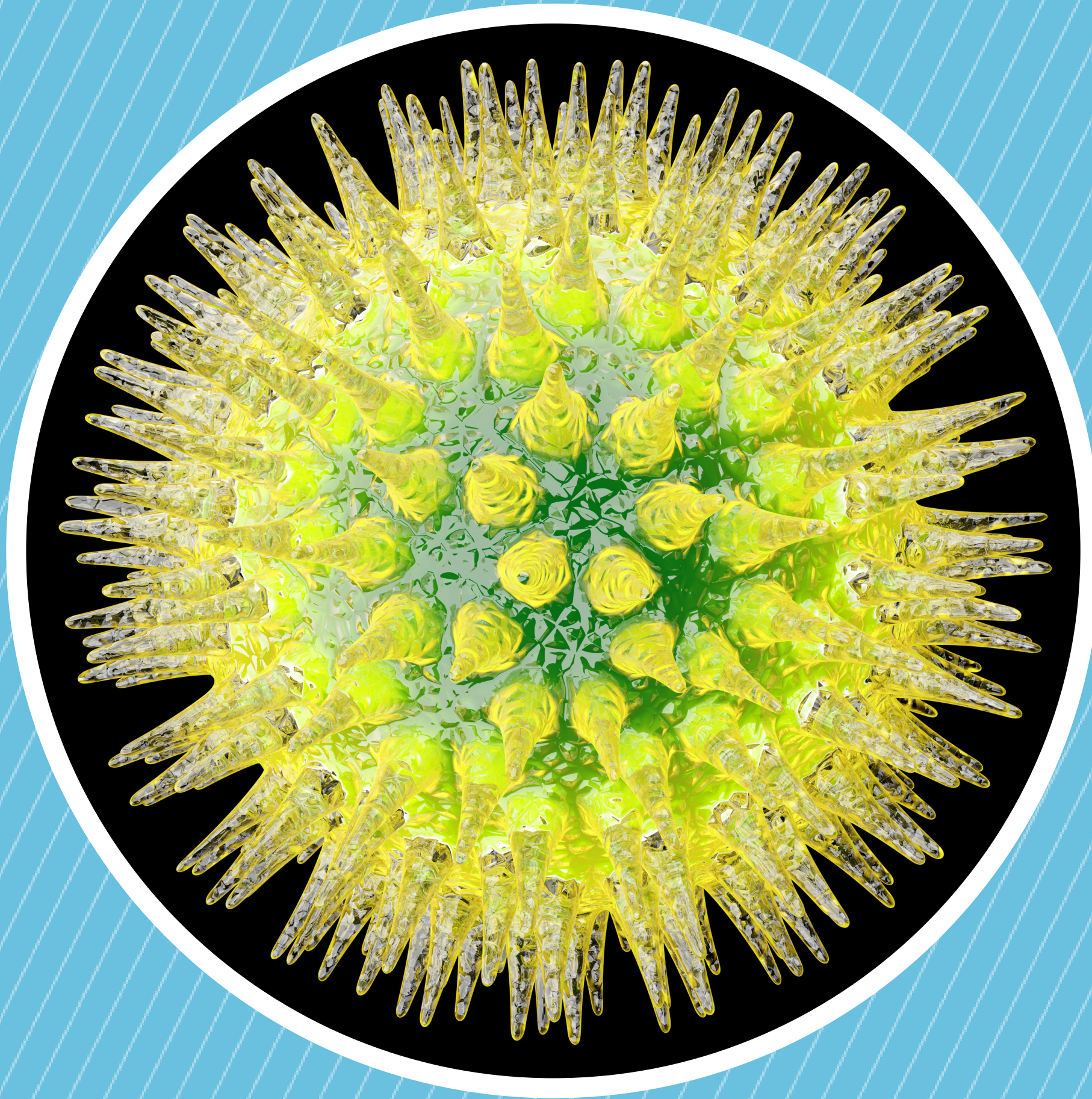
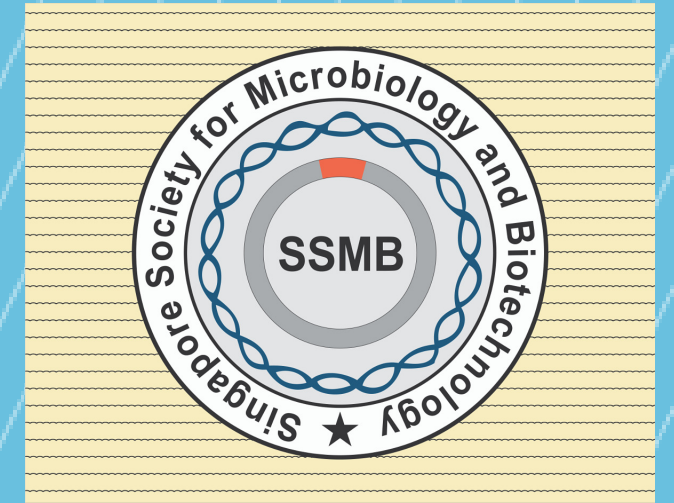


42nd SSMB AGM



Date: 6th March 2015, Friday

Venue: Seminar Room, MD4, Level 2,

**Department of Microbiology, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
National University of Singapore**

5 Science Drive 2 Singapore 117597

Schedule:

300 - 315pm – Registration/Tea Reception

315 - 400pm – Public Seminar on Ebola Virus by Dr Dale Fisher (Head, Clinical Director and Senior Consultant, Division of Infectious Diseases, and Chair, Infection Control, National University Hospital)

400 - 500pm – SSMB 42nd AGM

Please RSVP to Benson Chua at yen_leong_chua@nuhs.edu.sg

Ebola in West Africa; Eradicable or now Endemic?

Abstract:

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa is simply staggering in so many respects. Originating in a rural town Meliandou in Guinea it could have been like any other Ebola outbreak. A single animal to human transmission with some degree of human to human spread most notably at funerals to family members or hospitals to health care workers. Typical outbreaks last months, they are contained fairly locally and eventually controlled by a fairly standard approach rolled out by MSF. However this outbreak is different with never before seen scale in terms of case numbers and deaths. There are many reasons to explain this outcome almost all related to the setting in this part of Africa and human factors. Movement in this area is not difficult and as people become frightened and see death, it is not surprising that people drive across the country to see family despite being sick and despite the advice. For this reason the geographic spread has been difficult to curtail, although limiting it (by and large) to the 3 most affected countries is a true success story of work done in Mali and Nigeria and other bordering countries. Infection control, case management and social mobilization efforts have had to likewise geographically pursue the outbreak. Necessarily this has seen the development of novel and community based case management strategies as this is the regular front line while waiting for treatment units to be established. There is belief that zero cases can be reached and that Ebola virus disease will not become endemic but that is not guaranteed and ongoing efforts that continuously adapt to circumstances will need to be maintained for some time yet.

Biography of Speaker:

Dale Fisher is Professor of Medicine and Head of the Infectious Diseases Division at the National University Hospital, Singapore. He has been associated with the WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network for many years involved in missions, trainings and more recently on its steering committee. During the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa he has been involved through strategic meetings in Geneva, and a guidelines development group specifically for this outbreak. In West Africa on several occasions through 2014/5 he has provided technical input in the field through the Liberian health ministry as well as trainings to see adaptive policy rolled out.